

21st Annual

Freedom Fund Banquet



NAACP

Cheltenham Area Branch

Arcadia University
June 11, 2023



Mission Statement

The vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination.

Branch Objectives

- To ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens
- To achieve equality of rights and eliminate race prejudice among the citizens of the United States
- To remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes
- To seek enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights
- To inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination
- To educate persons as to their constitutional rights and to take all lawful action to secure the exercise thereof, and to take any other lawful action in furtherance of these objectives.

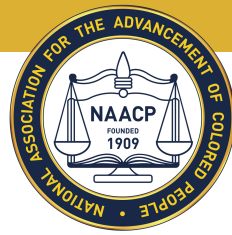
I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed—

I, too, am America.

-Langston Hughes



President's Welcome

As President of the Cheltenham Area Branch NAACP, it is my great pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the Executive Committee and general membership of this proud branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to the our 21st Freedom Fund Banquet.

The above words of my Fraternity Brother, Langston Hughes, have never seemed as prescient as they do today. 247 years into our nation's journey, it's effort, if you will, to ensure a more perfect union; it often seems that we are moving in reverse, retracing our steps over that path covered with the blood of our slaughtered predecessors. In truth, as we work to achieve the vision and the mission of the national association for the advancement of colored people - the NAACP, it is fact that, as we fight to secure the inclusion of all those who inhabit and contribute to this nation, we are at the same time, compelled to defend the progress made since the framers set pen to paper on July 4th, 1776.

Today, June 11, 2023, we find ourselves still locked in the battles with the old, ever-present threat of white supremacy, white nationalism, and racism. Threats to the very existence of our nation as we know it and, for an old soul as myself, a direct challenge to the vision and mission, our founders set forth 114 years ago.

Our founders established NAACP's vision to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination. They declared that the mission of this organization is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

A few years ago, We updated the vision to state clearly that we, the NAACP, envision an inclusive community rooted in liberation, where all persons can exercise their civil and human rights without discrimination.

Our restated mission statement is to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of black people and all persons of color. This updated clearly lays out more directly to the current status of our people and our nation. It recognizes that we must be obvious about the challenge to create an inclusive society and the work necessary to achieve that hoped-for ideal.

And as we celebrate our community hero honorees and student leaders achievements this afternoon, I recall the words of our sister in the movement, Fannie Lou Hamer, to paraphrase, we are still sick and tired of being sick and tired. We have fought too long, bled too much, seen too many die, to let our nation carry us back to that place where hope unborn had died. We are here today to declare that though our feet are weary, we will march on until victory is won.

We may be weary, but we will not let anyone turn us around.

Eddie T. Graham



NAACP

Cheltenham Area Branch

Executive Board 2023



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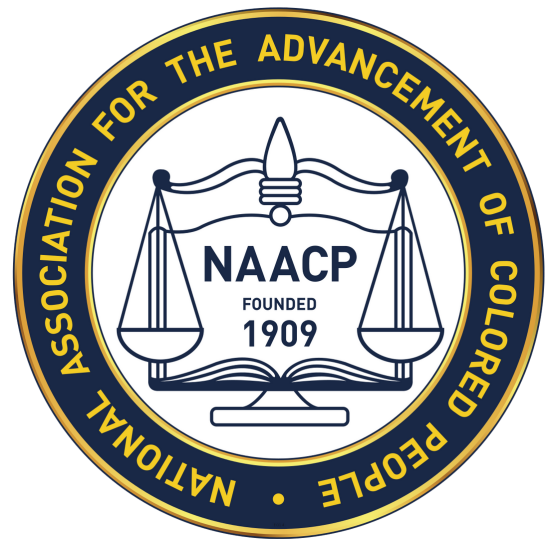
Dr. James Eten
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Community Coordinator



Scholarship

Welcome to our 21st Annual Freedom Fund Banquet. We are here to honor several high school seniors with scholarships and will also award several members of our community for their outstanding service to others. We thank you for being here in support of the award recipients and the mission of the Cheltenham Area NAACP.

Proceeds from tonight's event will directly benefit our 2023-2024 scholarship fund and other community initiatives.

Scholarship Recipients

Olivia Bell



Born in Abington, PA, Olivia (Liv) is the daughter of Kirk and Angela Bell and the third of four children. She has grown up in Fort Washington, PA. Dedicated as a baby and baptized at age nine, Liv has grown in her spiritual walk at Bethlehem through the Vine Sunday School and as a Junior Deaconess. In addition to her academic achievements and officer roles in the National Honor's Society and UNICEF, Liv has been active in band, choir and many sports and clubs. A treasured memory is her four years as a flyer on the Plymouth Whitemarsh HS varsity competitive cheer team and sideline squad. Liv is a lifelong Girl Scout, earning both her Bronze and Gold Awards and serving as a Girl Advisor and Delegate for the Eastern, PA chapter. Liv is a graduate of Plymouth Whitemarsh High School and will continue her love of learning as a chemistry major at Princeton University in Fall 2023. Liv has a passion for learning about other cultures and dreams of traveling and living abroad. She is considering a career in medicine or patent law and knows that whatever she does will involve helping and advocating for those in need.

Joshua Slade

Joshua Slade attends Jenkintown High School. He played football and baseball through high school however he stopped playing baseball after his junior year Championship win. He plays defensive end in football and finished with a district championship winning season. Joshua received Second team honors as well as academic honors. His is a member of the stock market club as well as student council this year, and microcredit club in previous years. In the summer Joshua was a counselor for a youth football camp and in the fall he was a coach for a youth flag football league.



Scholarship Recipients

Gabrielle Greene



Gabrielle Greene is an Oreland, Pennsylvania native and senior at Springfield Township High School. At the age of eighteen, Gabrielle is a published poet, songstress, songwriter, and actress. Gabrielle has two poems published by The American Library of Poetry Contest, entitled “Beautiful Browns” in the 2014 Book of Accolades and “Where I am From” in the 2016 Book of Accolades. Nurturing and developing her passion for music, she began singing in her local church choir. At the age of thirteen, she auditioned for Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Broadway musical “School of Rock” where she played the roles of Shonelle and Tomika from 2017-2018. During this time, Gabrielle performed the National Anthem at Madison Square Garden twice and participated in many Broadway advocacy events for those in need. Gabrielle then returned to her Pennsylvania roots, performing the National Anthem at several Philadelphia 76ers games, several Philadelphia Phillies games, and as of recently, at the 2022 Philadelphia Phillies National League Championship Series Game Five. Aside from the arts, Gabrielle is incredibly active in politics and activism within her local community. She is a founding member of her local NAACP Youth Leadership Committee, where she continues to organize and lead efforts for equity in education and discipline, in addition to strengthening community-police relations. Gabrielle is an AP/Honors student and hopes to continue her academic career at Harvard University, double majoring in Political Science/Government and Performing Arts. Gabrielle strives to use her voice for change and to help others.

Charli Jones

Charli Jones is a senior at Cheltenham High School and lives in Glenside, PA. She is the Vice President of her class and will be giving the Welcome Address at her graduation. Charli also has been playing golf, through The First Tee of Greater Philadelphia, since the age of five. She was selected to attend a 5 -Week leadership class with the PGA superstore to teach and develop leadership practices in golf and beyond. In addition, due to this class she was selected to attend the upcoming PGA Superstore/First Tee Leadership Summit in Montana later this summer. Charli is very excited to be attending Howard University in the fall and she is very appreciative of the scholarship award that she is receiving!



Book Award Recipients



Craig Ellison Metcalfe

2023 Graduate of Cheltenham High School. Craig is a member of the Black Scholars Club, the Black Student Union, and is a Cultural Proficiency Student Ambassador. A member of the basketball team, Craig was featured as a student-athlete of the week.

Candace Harrison

Candace Harrison embodies what it means to be active and present within her community. Candace was born in Philadelphia on February 12th, 2005. As a Springfield Township High School senior, she is a member of numerous clubs, including Voices of Excellence, Spartan Culture Committee, and Peer Tutoring Program. She is a competitor on the Track and Field team, where she served as Co-captain for indoor in her junior and senior years. Candace is a founding member of the Cheltenham Branch NAACP Youth Leadership Committee. She was recognized in The Tribune and on WHYY for her work with the NAACP Youth Leadership Committee to influence the Springfield Township School District to incorporate African American studies into the history curriculum. Within the Springfield Township community, she helped to sponsor and host a Breonna Taylor Rally and voter's registration drive. Through Voices of Excellence, she helped organize a sponsorship video for Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease awareness. In March of 2022, Candace was honored with the Widener Student Leadership Award for her leadership in the community and school. In her senior year, she served as the group's CEO.

Along with being a scholarly athlete, she is also interested in music. In the Spring of her junior year, she collaborated with other musical aspires and founded a Music Production Club. This club offers a place for producers, engineers, writers, and musicians to work together. In her senior year, she served as the group's president. In addition, Candace spent the summers of 2021-2022 and the fall of 2022 as a student intern with the Montgomery County Commissioner's Office, working on projects focused on human resources, diversity, equity and inclusion, housing, and budget research. In addition, she shadowed the attorneys in the Public Defender's Office. This opportunity supports her ultimate career goal to work in the legal field. Overall, Candace is very committed and dedicated to community service, academic achievement, and athletics.



Book Award Recipients



Lauren Lewis

During Lauren Lewis' 4 years at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, she has not only excelled in the classroom, being a Scholastic and Distinguished honor roll student, but she has also been a part of the Cheer and Lacrosse teams at PW. Lauren was a base for varsity cheer and defender for varsity lacrosse. With the cheer team they competed at the highest level of competition earning 5th place nationally. Lauren was also part of the yearbook committee, acting as designer and publisher of the 2023 school yearbook. Outside of school she works part time as a gymnastics coach and in the summers she is a lifeguard. Lauren also volunteers as both a cheer coach and lacrosse coach to children aged 5-13 for the PW Spartans and Conshy bulldogs. This past year Lauren was given the opportunity to be a part of the ACE mentor program which allowed her to gain more knowledge and hands-on with the field she will be continuing her education at Thomas Jefferson University studying Architecture for the next 5 yrs, leading to a career of building and designing homes and commercial buildings.

Mya Whitted

Mya Whitted is a graduating senior from Cheltenham High School. Her self-drive and determination motivate her. She is currently in cosmetology school obtaining her license while still attending high school. Mya wishes to thank the NAACP for listening to her story.



Master of Ceremonies



Bill Anderson

Bill Anderson joined the FOX 29 News team in February, 2015. As executive producer and anchor of special projects, he manages the content of the station's special reports, including the "Our Race Reality" series of segments and specials. He also reports on the brighter side of life in his regular news series "For Goodness' Sake."

Bill was a contributor to FOX 29 News and "Good Day Philadelphia" for years before joining the team as a co-anchor for the weekend edition of "Good Day Philadelphia." For three years prior to joining FOX 29, he was a reporter for "Chasing News," an innovative public affairs program broadcast on FOX 29 and WWOR in Secaucus, New Jersey.

For ten years before joining "Chasing News," Bill hosted "Wake Up with Bill," an award-winning talk show on Philadelphia's 900 AM WURD. Philadelphia Tribune Newspaper recognized Bill's work in the community and named him one of "Philadelphia's Most Influential African Americans," and Philadelphia Weekly named him "Best Radio Talker."

Bill was panelist in Emmy-nominated FOX 29 series "Black on Black." He is also featured in JAY-Z's documentary of the nationally-recognized concert "Made in America."

Over the course of his career, Bill has interviewed many people, including Presidents Clinton, Obama, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Born and bred in the Philadelphia area, Bill attended George Washington University in Washington D.C., earning a degree in marketing and business administration.

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Keynote Speaker



Dr. Ellyn Jo Waller, Ed.D.

Ellyn Jo Waller, Ed.D. is the partner in marriage and ministry of Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller, Senior Pastor of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church. They are the proud parents of two beautiful and accomplished young ladies, Elynn Morgan and Eryka Lynn. She was educated in the New York City public school system. She earned a BS in Special Education from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, MSED and Ed.D. from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Ellyn Jo is passionate about combating human trafficking, education and lifting the lives of women. In 2011, she led Enon Tabernacle in establishing, an anti-human trafficking ministry, She's My Sister which seeks to raise awareness about the issue of human trafficking in faith communities throughout the Philadelphia metropolitan area. This ministry supports a local drop-in center, participates in street outreach and advocates for local victims. She also participates in international anti-human trafficking efforts.

Ellyn Jo's anti-human trafficking efforts have been acknowledged by numerous organizations over the years. She was honored by Pennsylvania Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. during Black History Month as a leader from Pennsylvania who has paved pathways toward a brighter future for children and families throughout the Commonwealth (2020). Most recently, she was named the 2023 Advocate of the Year by Women Against Abuse.

Ellyn Jo is a woman of deep faith; she is committed to Jesus Christ and being supportive of husband and daughters. Her commitment to Jesus Christ greatly influences her concern for the vulnerable, she views the words of Psalm 94:16 as a call to action. It is her heart's desire to please God and be a blessing in the lives of others.



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President's Award



Chad Dion Lassiter, MSW

Chad Dion Lassiter is a National Expert in the field of American Race Relations. Mr. Lassiter has worked on race, peace, and poverty-related issues in The United States, Africa, Canada, Haiti, Israel and Norway. He is the current Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, where he has developed and launched a 'No Hate in Our State Townhall' to address the surge of White Nationalism in Pennsylvania, a 'Social Justice Lecture Series' providing an outlet for the communities to discuss imperative issues and serves as a Racial Reduction Response team for those communities impacted by hatred. He has also developed programs under his appointment, such as a 'Global Social Justice Initiative,' 'Black and Jewish Beloved Community Dialogue,' and the 'College Race Dialogue Initiative.'

Mr. Lassiter received his Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Social Work, where he was the A. Phillip Randolph Award winner in 2001 and was the recipient of the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Involvement Award in 2008.

Mr. Lassiter is a co-founder and current president of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy & Practice's Black Men at Penn, the first Ivy League Black male group of social workers. In 2019, he was inducted into the School of Social Policy and Practice Alumni Hall of Fame. Mr. Lassiter was recently chosen as National Association of Social Workers, Pennsylvania Chapter Social Worker of the Year for 2022 and has been recognized by the Philadelphia Tribune as "The Most Influential African American Leader from 2010-2022."

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Unsung Hero Award



Bill England

Bill England and his family have lived in Cheltenham Township for 18 years. During that time, he has been actively involved in the community. He was twice elected to serve on the Cheltenham School Board serving eight years and was chosen by his fellow School Board members to serve as President for two years. He was a past Chair and member of the Cheltenham Human Relations Commission, served on the Federation Early Learning Services Board for 10 years, and was a soccer coach for Cheltenham Sports for seven years. He has been a proud member of the NAACP Cheltenham Branch serving on the Political Action Committee.

Bill has spent his entire career focusing on expanding opportunities for communities in need, focused on issues of social justice, inclusion, and equity -everyone deserves a seat at the table! For the last four years, Bill has served as Coalition Director for the Pennsylvania Health Access Network's Here For Us Advocacy Coalition. The Coalition has more than 60 Montgomery County community-based organizations as partners. The Coalition focuses on efforts to improve our local social safety net – housing and homelessness, hunger and food insecurity, access to health and mental health services. Bill also serves on the board of the Montgomery County Community College Foundation and the Montgomery County Anti-Hunger Network.

He lives in Elkins Park with his wife. His daughter, a graduate of Cheltenham High School, is finishing her final year at Fordham College.

Unsung Hero Award



Whitney Roberts

“I don’t want to be famous. I want to be impactful.” Whitney Roberts may have a big following and features in Wired Magazine, i-D Magazine, and NBC, but if you ask her, she only ever wanted to be impactful for her community and use her voice for good.

A graduate of Cheltenham High School and West Chester University, Whitney honed that voice running her blog, The Reclaimed and subsequent podcast, The Reclaimed podcast where is, in her words, “just a Black girl out here trying to help everyone do better, including and especially herself.”

She is also a writer whose work has been featured in Shondaland, Insider, The Black AIDS Institute, and Parents. Whitney is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She is married to Earl Roberts II and are blessed to be parents of their daughter, Emerie Annette.

Her work and life can be summarized by Micah 6:8 “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”



Cheltenham Area Branch

NAACP

Community Service Award



Rabbi Saul Grife

Rabbi Saul Grife has served as a pulpit rabbi since 1986. For the past 25 years he has been in Philadelphia and is now the rabbi of Congregation Melrose Bnai Israel Emanu El in Elkins Park, Pa. Rabbi Saul has used the Bible, theology, stories, humor and music to teach, lead and inspire countless Jews to become knowledgeable, wiser and more steeped in their heritage. Rabbi Saul has connected with interfaith communities throughout his career to build bridges of understanding and to diminish the perceived differences between all of God's children. He hopes to build a better world of peace for us all!

Rabbi Saul was proudly married to his beloved wife Linda for 35 years before she tragically died in 2016. He is the proud father of Gabby, Alana and her husband Ofir and Shira. Rabbi Saul is the proud grandfather to Alana and Ofir's daughter Lucy who lights up his face everyday!!

Rabbi Grife is grateful for today's honor and will continue to serve the community so all of our citizens feel safe and welcome!

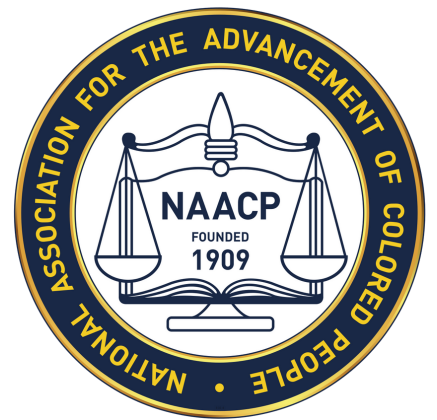


Cheltenham Area Branch

NAACP

**The Cheltenham Branch
would like to extend our
appreciation to each of our
Vendors, Sponsors and
Banquet Guests.**

**Thank you for your continued
support!**



We  **our Sponsors**

21st Annual

**Freedom
Fund Banquet**

2023



*Congratulations
&
Very Best Wishes*

for their further studies and future success –
to the four very talented scholarship winners:

Charli Jones
of Cheltenham High School

Joshua Slade
of Jenkintown High School

Gabrielle Greene
of Springfield Township High School

Olivia Bell
of Plymouth Whitemarsh High School

–Dennis and Mary Helf

2023

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Between Friends Boutique

Between Friends Boutique, 7833 W. Germantown Avenue, in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia is the boutique. This shop explodes with vibrant, soothing hues on cotton, silk, linen and other fabrics for garments. Jewelry, scarves, and shawls abound to accessorize a present wardrobe or to compliment an outfit purchased at the boutique. "Shopping is better when done with a friend" is the branding phrase of this sophisticated boutique. Come with friends but if you come alone, the two co-owners or the boutique manager will become genuine friends during your shopping experience.

Intimacy is the signature of *Between Friends Boutique*. As one approaches the entry there is a torso-mannequin in some eye-catching, richly hued mixture of colors that boldly pulsates with a joy of life and an invitation to check out the garment and enter to see more. One is met with a compelling smile that is in the eye as well as the lips of the greeter. The white walls are the canvas for the colors of the garments while the garments become sculptured art awaiting your viewing and fitting.

The boutique takes seriously its commitment to assist women in enhancing their innate beauty through beautiful garments. Claudia notes that while most women buy for an occasion or season, "we want you to build a wardrobe so that you are ready for any event at any time of the year." The clothing are items that most women have never thought of wearing and the items bring out the beauty that individuals rarely imagined was theirs. Please note, the season is about to change and white linen pants will be available. While *Between Friends* caters primarily to women, for men, there are cashmere scarfs, men's and unisex socks, and unique bowties. The prices for the high quality of the merchandise will surprise you. This is the norm at *Between Friends*; you enter silent pleasure and curiosity and leave with lovely and unique clothing because you can afford to look and feel beautiful in clothing and accessories from *Between Friends*.

(A caution: If you see an item in that you love, do not delay its purchase; it will be gone when you are ready. There are no extras nowhere).

The prices for the high quality of the merchandise will surprise you. This is the norm at *Between Friends*; you enter silent pleasure and curiosity and leave with lovely and unique clothing because you can afford to look and feel beautiful in clothing and accessories from *Between Friends*. (A caution: If you see an item in that you love, do not delay its purchase; it will be gone when you are ready. There are no extras nowhere).

Before a final decision is made, throughout the experience, a signature courtesy is extended - a glass of chilled spring water or a glass of champagne is offered. People often ask what is being celebrated. The response from Claudia, Atiya or Deborah is, "You! Life!" This is the signature *Between Friends Boutique!*

2023

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AIDING IN DIVERSITY FOUNDATION



PURPOSE:

Assisting and supporting underrepresented students to overcome financial, cultural, and social barriers in the pursuit of higher education.

MISSION STATEMENT:

"Our mission is to challenge the status quo by providing resources for both underrepresented students and academic programs in order to strengthen personal, professional, and educational development."

FOUNDATION OVERVIEW:

- Provide assistance to underrepresented students and/or those pursuing underrepresented areas of study in higher education.
- Promote diversity within professional and educational sectors.
- Embolden the future of tomorrow by ensuring students build a strong educational foundation today.

ABOUT THE FOUNDERS:

- Co-Founder, Michael Johnson Jr, is currently a senior at Arcadia University majoring in Politics, Government & Law, while also being the 2023-2024 Student Body President.
- Co-Founder, Noel Gonzalez Jr, is currently a junior History major/ Secondary Ed minor at Arcadia University, while being a prominent leader in the SAJE fellowship.

The A.I.D Foundation is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. As such, donations are tax-deductable.

2023 SPONSORS



Check out this new children's book titled, *Little Joey Starts a Farm*, which details how novice city dwellers and experienced growers alike can grow their own food.

Authored by Joseph Harrison
Email Littlejoeyfarm@gmail.com to purchase a copy!

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I AM PROUD TO SUPPORT THE
CHELTENHAM AREA BRANCH NAACP
AND THIS YEAR'S FREEDOM FUND AWARD DINNER.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO
FOR OUR COMMUNITY.
I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING
OUR WORK TOGETHER.

KEN
LAWRENCE
JR.

Paid for by Friends of Ken Lawrence

2023

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I am honored to support the
Cheltenham Area Branch NAACP
this year's Freedom Fund Awards Dinner, and
the work you do for our community.

I look forward to working together in the
months and years to come!

JAMILA _____
WINDER
_____ FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Paid for by Friends of Jamila Winder

2023

Congratulations

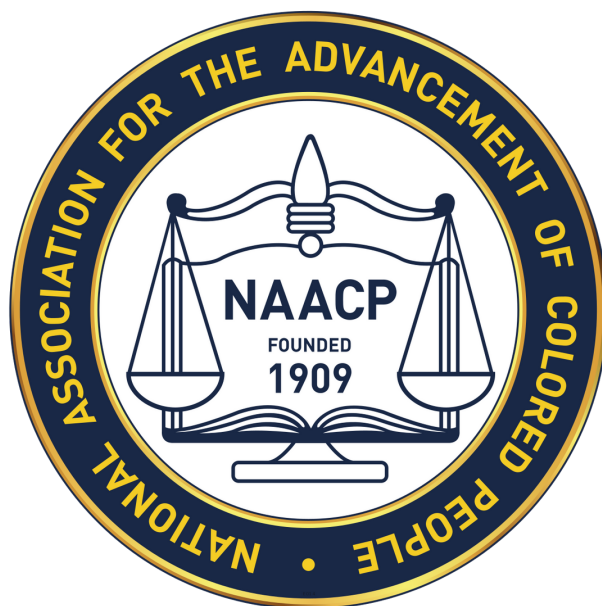


The Plymouth Township Police Association sends their heartfelt congratulations to each of the scholarship and service award recipients of the Cheltenham Area Branch of the NAACP's 21st Annual Freedom Fund Banquet.

A special congratulations is sent to Lauren Lewis and Olivia Bell, graduates of Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, for their outstanding achievements.

Detective/Sergeant Chris Schwartz
- President

Become a Member Today!



www.cheltenhamnaacp.com